FEBRUARY 13, 1898.

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SILK WAISTS.

LONDON NOTES.

REVIVAL OF INTEREST IN POETRY-THE | ances will be of the highest order of excellence WAGNER FESTIVAL-AN ARTIST IN IBSENITE DRAMA.

London, February 1. "The Academy" has succeeded in making a reputation by crowning with a first prize the orks of a poet who was little known. Since t awarded the crown for the best literary work of the year to a writer whose name cannot be found in recent editions of standard biographical works like "Men and Women of the Time," to say nothing of more flexible gazetteers like "Who's Who?" wherein Mr. Douglas Sladen orders the social destinies of the London world. of fashion, art and letters, to the exclusion of "publishers and other tradespeople," Mr. Ste-A neglected writer, hardly numbered among the minor singers fumbling the chords which once responded to the touch of great masters, is now a large figure in literary London, Justice requires me to add that all who read his of poems are constrained to admit One effect of the discovery of Mr. Stephen minor poets. Possibly the sudden prominence sequired by an unknown man may have impressed English readers with the conviction that unrecognized genius may be lurking in every corner of the bookstalls, and that those in possession of leisure are under moral obligation to

educate the public on the modern art of writing poetry. Mr. William Archer has delivered a lecture on "Some Living Poets," and Mr. Edmund Gosse has instantaneously indicted him for neglecting to make a complete list in the course of an hour's talk, and thereby contriving to render many exquisite artists in verse cor very of Mr. Stephen Phillips has quickened public conscience. There is to be extreme sensitiveness respecting the claims of living poets. whereas there has been until recently a lack of

I suspect that much of this recent interest in cetry is artificial, and that the truth is ads' is worth more to the trade than the whole the hearts of Englishmen to-day is not poetry f imagination nor the mellifluous flow of contemplative reverie, but lyrics of action, with the note of the drum-best in them, or the swirl of the imperial seas which the nation commands with its mighty fleets. With all the subtle cynicism of the times-and in London it pervades the atmosphere like a winter fog and chills enthusiasm like a biting east wind-there is an instinctive longing for a period of heroic action, when Englishmen again will not be ashamed to be thoroughly in earnest; and this yearning is voiced by Mr. Kipling better than by any other English poet. Literature, the stage, art and public life are all suffering from the enervating influences of lack of enthusiasm and sarnestness "England needs," said an scute critic the other day, "a real crisis like a sources of national character and to restore its faith in the realities of Anglo-Saxon

The Wagner Festival is to be transplanted from Bayreuth to London this year. The experiment of introducing two complete representations of "Der Ring des Nibelungen" is a less bazardous one than it appears at first glance. The public taste for Wagner's music has been steadily growing in England during the last decade. The most popular nights of grand opera at Covent Garden for several seasons have been Wagner nights. Concert programmes which draw the largest audiences in London during the winter and spring are those in which Wagner numbers are conspicuous. In all the great English cities the movement of public taste in music has disclosed a trend in the direction of Wagner. There is a great public in England, which will be attracted by the promise of two complete Ring cycles in June at Covent Garden; and the presence of a large concourse of music-lovers from America and Germany is confidently anticipated. The dates for the two series of performances are now definitely arranged by the following programme:

The Grand Opera Syndicate has placed these performances under the charge of Mr. Alfred Schuiz-Curtius, who has made all the prelimihary arrangements and already engaged nearly all the prominent singers. Herr Anton Seidi Will conduct the orchestra, which is expected to be the strongest one ever heard in Covent Garden. New scenery will be painted in Vienna, and the chorus is to be recruited, especially for "Die Götterdammerung," from the trained singers usually heard at Bayreuth. A stage manager and a master machinist are to be imported from Germany, and the musical resources of the Continent are to be drawn upon for the

great and minor parts. In "Das Rheingold" will be heard Mme. Brema, Frau Schumann-Heink, M. Van Dyck, Herr Lieban and Mr. Pringle, who are already well known in London; and also M. Anton von Rooy from Rotterdam, Herr Nebe from Carlsruhe, Fraulein von Artner from Hamburg and Fräulein Heiser from Stuttgart. Four of these artists will sing in "Die Walkure" with Mme. "Siegfried" and Fräulein Ternina, from the Munich Opera House, will be the Brünnhilde, with five singers among those already named in other parts. In "Die Götterdämmerung" will in other parts. In "Die Götterdämmerung" will appear M. Jean de Reszke, M. Edouard de Reszke, Herr Nebe, Herr von Milde (from Bay-Emma Earnes and Herr Wittekopf, from Ham-

Heink and Frau Gadsky (from America). These names warrant the forecast that the perform-

Members of the Royal Family and leaders of the world of wealth and fashion are greatly interested in this Wagner Festival, but the support will mainly come from lovers of music, and be enforced. Flexibility in this matter will be necessary, because all but one of the performances will begin at an hour when evening dress is inconvenient. "Das Rheingold" will open at 8:30 o'clock, and will proceed without interval "Die Walküre" and "Siegfried" will begin at 5 clock and close at 11, with an interval of ninety minutes as a dining hour after the first long act. "Die Götterdämmerung" will open at 4 o'clock and close at 10:30, with a similar dining hour, the curtain rising an hour earlier because the day is Saturday and because the restaurants and hotels are compelled to close

Audiences are expected to have a ferocious appetite for late suppers after these prolonged were similar premonitions of a fine harvest last year during Jubilee Week; but there was hardly a restaurant in Central London which was not oversupplied with luxuries and caterers to be wary, and they are not excited by the promise of large patronage from visitors so economical in their habits as German lovers of

The Wagner Festival is regarded with favor by London shopkeepers because it is a magnet which may draw an exceptionally large swarm of tourists from America. It is from that quarter that London hotels and shops obtain their best customers during the long English summer, and the Festival is well timed for the annual American exedus. Last year's speculation in Jubilee seats and windows was largely based on the assumption that the influx of American visitors would be unprecedented. It failed because the prices were so high as to divert the stream of American tourist travel to the Con-

transatlantic trade this year than there was times in America. The Wagner Festival promises to be one of the chief attractions of the approaching London season, and will undoubtedly draw to England a host of American travellers, anxious to witness the Bayreuth cycles under

Miss Elizabeth Robins is returning to America by to-day's steamer after eight years' residence the Bristol man who writes to "The in England, during which she has been identi-Academy": "Mr. Kipling's 'Barrack-Room Bal- fied with the Ibsenite drama. A Southerner by birth, she first came to England on a holiday at once in a circle, of which Ibsen was the obseries of performances marked the highest level of Ibsenite drama in London. She appeared in other plays, but she evinced a special aptitude and sympathy for the work of the Scandinavian dramatist. Indeed, it is an open question whether Mr. William Archer has done so much for him by translating his dramas with remarkable facility as Miss Robins has done by pro ducing them with refinement of feeling. Ibsen's work, while intensely dramatic in form, is coarse in grain, and needs the softening touch of sensibillity which she has imparted to it. Miss Robins is returning to America with the

expectation of producing several of Ibsen's European war in order to develop the best re- plays, for which she holds copyrights. She has been encouraged to believe that in America, as in England, there is a public which will wel come a thoroughly sympathetic attempt to translate these works into stage drama; and certainly she has earned the right to interpret them by prolonged study of them, and by intitiania. "Little Eyolf," in which she recently appeared in London, may be produced; but her preference will naturally be for "The Master Builder," in which she has met with the largest degree of public favor in England. If she receives sufficient encouragement she will produce a series of Ibsen's plays with a company carefully recruited for the purpose. She is an excelkind. Her enthusiasm for Ibsenite drama commands the respect even of those who, like my self, have a strong prejudice against the Norwegian master's art, method and prevailing tone of pessimism.

RAPID TRANSIT AND REAL ESTATE.

FRANK R. HOUGHTON EXPLAINS THE STAND

on one or two occasions in favor of granting the loop at the Battery, and the committee at its meetrailroad branches. The general sentiment was howat all, it should be constructed in such a manner that it should not interfere with any marginal railway which may hereafter be built on the river front. We could see no objection to having a con-pection made from the Brooklyn Bridge to the West but we do not favor a route through Reade-st. or

Duane-st., as proposed by Mr. Gould. 'In a general way it was our sentiment that no railway could be considered rapid transit, eithe above or under ground, unless it consisted of four It was also our opinion that the Manhat

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THE NEED OF HAWAIL

ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF MELVILLE'S ARGU-MENT FOR ANNEXATION.

COMMERCE RESULTING FROM ALASKAN DEVEL-

ing the Pacific Ocean give added strength to of Hawaii which have existed United States was a Nation and which have had full force since the conquest and purchase of California.

To the westward, the acquisition by Germany of a commanding position on the Shan-Tung Promontory and the rumored desire for Hai-Nan by another Government, with the occupation since 1842 of Hong-Kong by the British, point to the seemingly inevitable Europeanizing of the ong littoral of China. Northward of that empire Russia marches steadily on, pushing her Siberian railway to completion, extending her already vast resources and strength at Vladivostock, wintering her fleet at Port Arthur, and apparently entering into the affairs, domestic and foreign, of the Corean Peninsula. The fleet of Japan, too, has had, and still has, phenomenal growth. Japan has made Formosa her territory, and if her new role as the England of the East be adequately filled other Island territory may fall to her before the disturbed balance of power in the Orient shall cease to oscillate and shall settle into quiet for a time

In place, then, of facing China, peaceful, and in war inert, with no force to dispatch far afield by sea or land, and Japan, eager, brilliant, but yet young and weak, there will presently confront the United States on its western as well as its eastern shore the Powers of Europe, with their relatively large fleets and home reserves established not only in the far East, but in many of the nearer Pacific Islands, the acquisition of which in these later years has been not a "blind grab for territory," but in pursuit of definite strategic aims. To these forces on the West there must be added also that of the new Japan, whose navy will soon surpass our own in fighting power.

It is true that we are wholly at peace with these nations, and that since the United States desires no Asiatic territory, but is interested only in the full maintenance of its treaty rights with Eastern peoples, there would seem to be no TAKEN BY THE REAL ESTATE EXCHANGE'S SPECIAL COMMITTEE,
In explanation of the resolutions passed by the
Rapid Transit Committee of the Real Estate Exchange Frank R. Houghton, one of the members of
that committee, said yesterday in an interview with
a Tribune reporter: The committee was unailmous in its opinion on the main points of the question. These are I think nobody will deny that the
construction of an underground railway; and, second, that any elevated railway along the Boulevard
on one or two occasions in favor of granting the
of the Real Estate Exchange had previously voted
on one or two occasions in favor of granting the

Sometimes like a "thief in the night," coming
the nemry a neble field for attack by the
the enemy a neble field for attack by the
swiftly and without warning Jomini, a master
"guere de course," that "commerce-destroying"
which first formed a factor of naval war durthe nemry a neble field for attack by the
enemry a neble field for attack by the
swiftly and without warning Jomini, a master
swift swiftly and without warning Jomini, a master

of military strength. And so while at this time we are wholly at peace on the Pacific, and the breadth of that wide ocean lies between us and the arsenals of nations which may some time be hostile to us, yet it must be remembered that in a moment peace may fade and that Hawaii bridges the stretch of sea which without the island group would be at this stage in the development of marine propulsion impassable to an enemy's fleet. Pearl Harbor is the sole key to the full defence of our Western shore, and that key should lie in our grasp only.

ALASKA A NEW ELEMENT.

Again, the sudden and wholly unforeshadowed development of Alaska, which the go'd discoveries of the Klondike probably presage, adds

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in tributary industries, then a wholesale and rapid expansion on natura' lines. It is true that Alaska has not the sunny vineyards, the teeming fruit gardens and the broad and fertile fields of California, but of its resources which holds the world's greatest reserve of timber, its

necessities, now plainly apparent, of the goldhe preparing for the new fall to find it owing to the lack, for the time at least, of transportation facilities. The problem of the carriage of even a fraction of the waiting throng over the miles of sea and river to the Klondike is one involving for the present the gravest difficulties. The distance from Seattle to St. Michaels is 2.500 miles by sea, and after the latter port is reached there are still 2,500 miles of the Yukon to traverse by river steam-

ers, which as yet do not exist. With each Alaskan emigrant from Seattle there must go a ton of supplies for clothing and sustenance, a ton of fuel for his warmth during one winter, and a considerable weight of lumber for his housing. To these there must be added materials of construction for the great number of small and light-draught Yukon steamers yet to be transported in sections to and erected upon the banks of that river, and the fuel for the use of this river fleet, which will average not less than two tons for each gold miner and his baggage, stores, lumber, etc. Acrding to a conservative estimate, embracing all of the items noted above, to transport fifty thousand men, with the necessary stores, fuel ing at least one arrival per day at St. Michaels of large steamers from Seattle during the five months of available summer weather.

months of available summer weather.

One arriva, a day means, as well, an average of one departure a day. At fifteen knots speed steamers will cover the distance of twenty-five hundred miles between the two ports in seven

EXPOSED TO HOSTILE FLEETS.

In the event of conflict between the United probable cause for a clash. Yet modern war is States and a maritime Power, this throng of sometimes like a "thief in the night," coming | richly laden but helpless vessels will present to the enemy a noble field for attack by the

Alabama and her consorts, and which has at this time many strong advocates, notably in the United States and France.

Now, Hawali commands fully this ocean route, at a distance from it of less than twenty-five hundred miles-not five days steaming for the cruiser Columbia-and in that flanking position which will give a naval force using it as a base such immense power to harass and destroy. The Klondike is Canada's, soon she will doubtless lay down railways reaching its limits. Great Britain will then have, not only for the gold lands but for all Alaska, the surpassing strategic advantages of "inner lines" on which to operate in the event of war. Alaska for the gold lands but for all Alaska, the sur-passing strategic advantages of "inner lines" on which to operate in the event of war. Alaska its, for us, practically an over-sea province. Our scle means of communication with it would ap-pear now, at least, to be an ocean route. Shall we hazard the safety of Seward's imperial ter-ritory for this and for all time by refusing Ha-wail, the ocean fortress, which in our hands, with an adequate naval force, would make our Alaskan lines of transit unassallable by any force?

Hawaii's unique advantages as a strategic point of prime importance have been set forth so ably and so often as to forbid their citation here. One or two objections raised by not a few non-technical critics may, however, be cond Pearl Harbor is twenty-one hundred from our western coast, and Madeira is the same distance from our easiern The latter has little, if any, military a new element of commanding importance to the problem of Pacific defence—supremacy, if you will. It seems not unlikely that this territory will repeat the history of California—first,

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passage will exhaust the coal supply of a war vessel, making necessary a renewal at Hopplulu; and, second, in the isolation of the group, with the absence of other land between it and our coast. If the Pacific were as narrow as the Atlantic, or if other islands intervened—as with Madeira—between our western shore and Hawail, the strategic value of the latter would be largely reduced. largely reduced.

Again, it has been urged that if we shall take defend—an element not of strength, but of weakness, in war, and one which will make TILES. necessary large additions to our fleet. Pearl tress. It is true that one does not wage war with fortresses. It is also true, however, that they form vantage points from which a force may sally and under whose wing that force may may sally and under whose wing that force may supply and recruit for fresh attack. If Hawaii in naval conflict shall have no useful function in this then it would seem that, through the wars of all time, the eager strife for the pos-session of fortresses, of guarded ports, of fron-tier outposts, has seen faise strategy, an error militarity. to the dread of the economist or of the

altrurian, that annexation will require largely augmented naval strength, it may be said that if an adequate force of the United States be tions be properly guarded, an enemy from over sea would violate some of the cardinal prin-ciples of naval strategy and invite sure disas-ter in attacking our western shores. stationed at Hawaii and its coast communicater in attacking our western shores without first blockading or defeating the Hawaiian squadron. The force at Pearl Harbor should then form simply but the first line of defence. Then the seagoing ships "fit to lie in a line, Then the seagoing ships "It to lie in a line," with their torpedo auxiliaries, should be gathered to meet the first assault, leaving the coast guard to the reserve of torpedo craft and monitors stationed at fortified ports. The strength of the squadron at this mid-Pacific outpost should be, doubtless, sufficient to meet the enemy, but the force on the coast could be reenemy, but the force on the coast could be re-

war seems to arise through a lack of apprecia-tion of what steam has done in the reduction of ocean distances, measuring the latter in the ocean distances, measuring the latter in the time spent in traversing them. A clearer view may be obtained, perhaps, by referring this time to land travel. Admiral Colomb speaks of "the sea considered as territory over which military forces march." Let us extend this expression somewhat and assume the ocean to be, not a neutral plain, but a "No Man's Land," on which armies may manoeuvre. Napoleon gave his system of conducting a war as: "To march treaty-after miles a day, to fight, and then to his system of conducting a war as: "To march twenty-five miles a day, to fight, and then to camp in quiet." At fifteen knots speed, a fleet could steam from Pearl Harbor to San Francisco in less than six days. The Emperor, in that time, would have marched his army one hundred and fifty miles. If, then, we assume the sea to be a great land plain, we must locate Pearl Harbor on that plain at about one hundred and fifty miles from San Francisco, and, to complete the parallel, must make it practically impregnable and capable of sheltering one hundred thousand men. From this point of view Hawaif's remoteness would seem to be apparent rather than real.

wallan group, not only make secure our west-ern shore, but give the coming generations a firm grasp on the vast-but for us almost un-touched—trade of Pacific shores and islands? GEORGE W. MELVILLE

THE PURIM BALL AND DINNER.

An assemblage will meet Tuesday evening at the ball and banquet rooms of the Waldorf-Astoria, inspired by the dual objects of social enjoyment and philanthropy. The occasion will be the thirty-ninth annual ball of the Purim Association. Whatever funds result from this affair will be passed to the charge of the United Hebrew Charities for distribution among the needy, and that distribution does not discriminate against worthy cases encountered because of race or creed. This generally

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tion had by its receptions, which have also afforded the participants much pleasure, netted for the various deserving Hebrew charities the imposing sum of over \$60,000.

TWO WOMEN ASPHYXIATED.

SUICIDE SUSPECTED BY THE POLICE, IN SPITE OF EVIDENCE THAT THE DEATHS WERE ACCL. DENTAL

Two Magyan women were found dead in their room on the second floor of No. 125 West Twenty-eighth-st, early yesterday morning, as hyxiated by gan. The employer of the girls says that their deaths were accidental. The two victims are Agniska Juduk, twenty-five years old, and Maria Makanitsch, thirty-five. The Juduk girl came to this country about a year ago, and obtained employment in the Vienna Restaurant, kept by John third floor of No. 125 West Twenty-eighth-st. and his girls sleep on the second floor. Maria Makanitsch came to this country only a week ago, and also secured employment in the restaurant. women roomed together.

Yesterday morning Mrs. Louis Pechar, the sisterin-law of the restaurant-keeper, detected the odor of gas coming from the second floor, and on opening the door of the room occupied by the women was almost overcome. On the bed lay both the women, dead. The gas was turned on full. There was nothing to denote that the girls had committed suicide, and the Pechars are of the opinion that Maria Makanitsch, the new-comer to this country, who knew nothing about the gas jets, blew out the gas on retiring.

The police treated the case as one of suicide, the women having been melancholy and dejected dur ing the last week. Maria Makanitsch is married. Her husband, through her efforts, came to this country several years ago, and is now established somewhere near Philadelphia, but when the woman arrived here she found he cared for her no longer and sought employment for herself. Her idea was to get enough money to send for her children, who are now living in Ungran, in Hungary, with rela-

DEAD UNDER WASHINGTON BRIDGE. While a workman was passing under the second arch at the west end of the Washington Bridge about 1.30 o'clock yearerday afternoon he came across the body of a man, about twenty-eight years old. The man appeared to be a clerk, and was fairly well dressed. An ambulance surgeon who came from Fordham Hospital said that the man had died from carbolic acid poisoning. He was five feet six inches tall, and had light brown hair, light complexion and a smooth face. He were a fusilan penjacket, a black cutaway coat and waist-coat, gray striped trousers, white cotton under-wear, a Fedora hat a \(\sigma\) aced shoes. The clothing was entirely new, with the exception of the jacket, but the man had torn off the names of the makera. He had seven pennies and nothing else in his pockets.